

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

November 2, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

We saw the face of overwhelmed taxpayers last night at the hearing on the MPS budget. The school board dropped the increase from 16.4% to 9%. Because of an error that the city made in not collecting \$9 million last year, the total impact will be a 13% increase for schools.

The Mayor of Milwaukee proposed an increase of 3.3%. MATC's levy will rise 5% and the members of the County Board's Finance and Audit Committee passed an increase of nearly 4% this week.

One of the most interesting comments came from a Supervisor who noted that the costs of electricity, fuel, gas, groceries and medicine are going up and so should the taxes needed to fund government. I look at things in a very different light.

Because the costs of electricity, fuel, gas, groceries and especially medicine are going up for our residents and our employers in Milwaukee County, we should do even more to hold the line on taxes. Otherwise, the elderly couple living on Social Security will not be able to live in the county they helped build; the young family with a new child and a new mortgage will not be able to call Milwaukee County home; and the entrepreneur just starting a new business will not be able to hire more people to work.

As if these were not reasons enough, we should all look at the new Miller/Coors and realize that their joint venture is being done to save millions of dollars. If we want the new Miller/Coors headquarters in Milwaukee, we need to give them a cost effective reason to be here. Not only should we hold the line on taxes to protect these jobs, we should work to lower the tax burden.

The vote on a 2008 county budget on Monday will be a real test. Do we want to send the message to keep jobs in Milwaukee County or not? I want to keep and grow jobs here and I want to make it affordable to live, work, play, raise a family and retire here. Scott

Deliver a meal to an older adult

Please consider joining the Milwaukee County Department on Aging and Goodwill Industries to deliver meals on Thanksgiving Day to homebound older adults who will be alone. A small time commitment of 1-2 hours will brighten the holiday for many residents.

This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity! To sign up, contact Meg Lemmen of Goodwill Industries by Friday, November 8, 2007 at Mlemmen@goodwillsew.com. Volunteers will meet at Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St., at 10am on November 22.

Airport ranks high

Readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine ranked General Mitchell International Airport as 4th best in the nation, with a #1 ranking in Ease of Connections. The 10th Annual Reader's Choice Awards appear in their October 2007 issue.

Franklin meal site visit



Walker stops in at the senior meal site at the Franklin City Hall Community Room

Sendik's grand opening



County Executive Walker addressed the crowd at the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Sendik's Food Market in Franklin. Also attending were Mayor Tom Taylor, members of the Franklin Common Council and hundreds of community members. The new store employs 150 people.

Milwaukee Bucks preview



County Executive Walker addressed a huge gathering at the Bradley Center hosted by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce (MMAC) for the 29th annual Milwaukee Bucks Preview Luncheon to kick off the team's 40th season. Bucks players, coaches and staff participate in the event which was sponsored by Johnny Vassallo of Mo's Restaurants.

Veterans Day Parade



Mark your calendars for the Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, November 10 stepping off at 11am. Visit www.veteransdayparade-milw.org for information on helping with the parade and route map.

Holidays for Heroes

Show our US troops serving overseas that you care this holiday season and donate to "Holidays for Heroes." This effort is coordinated by Wisconsin We Care, FM 106.1, the Milwaukee County War Memorial, and the Veterans Day Parade of Milwaukee. Items and cash donations will be accepted on Saturday, November 10 from 8am to 4pm in the War Memorial parking lot adjacent to Veterans Park.

Items must be non-perishable and non-aerosol. No glass containers allowed. **The most needed items:** Christmas greetings – cards and letters; commercially-packed cookies and candy; CDs and DVDs; handheld electronic games, batteries and travel-size board games; paperback books – novels and word games; canned foods such as soups, pastas, fruits, salsas, beef stew, cheese spreads, tuna and chicken; plastic containers of peanut butter, raisins, microwaveable foods; snack foods in plastic containers such as Pringles, pretzels, peanuts, beef jerky, sausage sticks, Doritos, Fritos, Cheetos, snack crackers, breakfast bars, trail mix and energy bars; and powdered drink mixes.

If you know someone serving in Iraq or Afghanistan who you would like to receive a package, visit the Wisconsin We Care website at www.wiwecare.com for information.